

genus. As I find that there is no genus available for it, I propose the name

**Tetragonopyga**, gen. nov.

Type, *Cypselus affinis* Gray.

Mr. G. L. BATES sent some further descriptions of new birds\* obtained by himself on his journey to the French Niger and French Sudan in 1931-32 :—

**Auripasser luteus tilemsiensis**, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—The light or whitish feather-edgings to the dark inner remiges and the rectrices, which are wide and prominent in *A. luteus luteus*, are narrow and inconspicuous ; the whitish tips also to the wing-coverts, which in typical *luteus* form two imperfect wing-bars, are very slight and little seen. To these differences, which are seen alike in the adult male plumage and in the juvenile and female plumage, may be added that of a brighter and deeper yellow of the yellow parts, and a deeper chestnut of the back, in some adult male specimens of the new race when compared with the corresponding plumage in the typical race.

*Measurements.*—Wing 61·5-65·5; tail 45-51 mm. Ten specimens measured, including two females which are in size like the smallest males. These dimensions average a little less than in *A. luteus luteus*, in which the males occasionally reach, wing 67 mm.

*Distribution.*—The edge of the desert near the northernmost part of the course of the Niger, from Timbuktu to Burem. (My specimens from Tillia, north of Tawa, have the prominent light edgings, and should be named *A. luteus luteus*.)

*Type.*—♂ adult with new body-plumage; Taberréshat, French Sudan, Sept. 7, 1931. Collected by G. L. Bates, no. 10867, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.8.6.7.

*Remarks.*—My hesitation about describing this new race, although the specimens look, even at first glance, sufficiently different from specimens from the Nile, Darfur, and Lake Chad, was due to the difference in the state of the plumage ; for nearly all the many N.E. African ones in the British Museum are in

\* For previous ones, *vide antea*, pp. 7-12.

new plumage, and mine have wings and tail more or less worn. But there are enough of mine to show that the difference is not all due to abrasion. The character of the brighter yellow and chestnut colour in some of my specimens would alone be a sufficient one if they all had it in new plumage; but this is a variable character.

Nomenclature of the Races of *Tchagra senegala* in West Africa, with Description of a New Race.

Slater in a footnote in his 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' p. 627, says of the races of this species, except those of north-eastern Africa, that they "are not sufficiently differentiated to be of any value, and personally I would retain only *senegala* and perhaps *camerunensis*." A new study of the many skins in the British Museum, along with some I have recently collected from fresh localities, seems, however, to bring out a fairly definite picture of real geographical variation in West Africa, as follows:—

(1) *T. s. senegala*.—Generally with more or less of a dark streaky mottling on the back. Size: wing 80–90 mm. (the sexes are alike in size in this species). The largest birds measured are the few Senegal specimens. Tail always a very little longer than the wing—up to 100 mm.

*Distribution*.—All the westernmost region from Senegal to northern Sierra Leone, and eastward to the Upper Niger in the region of Bamako and Mopti.

(2) *T. s. pallida*.—Like the lighter specimens of *T. senegala senegala*, but with little or no mottling on the back. Size: same as in typical *senegala*.

*Distribution*.—The interior dry parts of West Africa from French Upper Volta or, perhaps, from the interior of the Ivory Coast, eastward to Bornu and Northern Cameroon, and southward to the coast at Accra (the typical locality). It is to the distinction of this race from *T. s. senegala* that Slater's remark is most applicable.

(3) *T. s. camerunensis*.—Of deep or saturated colour in all parts. Size inclined to be small—wing not over 86, tail not over 90 mm.

*Distribution.*—From middle or savannah Cameroon or, perhaps, from as far west as Lagos, eastward to Uganda. (The southern border of the West African range of the species.)

(4) *T. s. nothus*.—Paler even than *pallida*, and especially the edgings of the innermost remiges and their coverts very light. Size large, and tail proportionally long: wing 87–95; tail 95–115, generally over 100 mm.

*Distribution.*—Around Lake Chad and westward in the same latitudes on the border of the Desert to Tawa.

(5) ***Tchagra senegala timbuktana***, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—Lightest coloured race of all; back greyish or hoary-looking; the wide light margins of the inner remiges and their coverts very light, in places almost whitish; underside, and even flanks, almost white; axillaries and under wing-coverts white; more white showing on the bend (wrist-joint) and edge of the hand part of the wing than in the other races.

*Measurements.*—Size large and tail long (as in *nothus*): wing 91–93; tail 110–112 mm.

*Distribution.*—Timbuktu only, so far as yet known.

*Type.*—In the British Museum, ♀ adult; Timbuktu, French Sudan, Nov. 18, 1931. Collected by G. L. Bates, no. 11096, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.8.6.6.

Nomenclature of the Races of *Mesopicos goertæ* in  
West Africa, with a New Name.

Since the discovery that Swainson's *Dendrobates poicephalus* is merely a synonym of the typical *Mesopicos goertæ goertæ* of Senegal (see W. L. Sclater's 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' p. 863), the widely extended race hitherto usually known as *M. g. poicephalus* requires a new name. I wish, in giving this name, to review here the other West African races also, as I have recently obtained specimens of the least known ones:—

(1) ***Mesopicos goertæ agmen***, nom. nov.

*Description.*—Characterized by the slight extent and pale shade of the diffused yellow abdominal spot.

*Distribution.*—From the extreme west of Africa, nearly or

quite to the Nile, in the Semi-arid Belt and the western part of the Savannah, but not the driest northern part on the border of the Desert.

*Type*.—In the British Museum, ♂ adult; from 40 miles east of Wagadugu, Upper Volta, May 24, 1928. Collected by G. L. Bates, no. 9553, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1930.3.4.66.

*Remarks*.—This race has most commonly been known as *poicephalus*, or, as in my 'Handbook,' united with *centralis*. The fact that it is the most widely extended one, or the main body of the species, is intended to be hinted at by the name *agmen*, Latin for *army* or *throng*.

(2) *M. g. centralis*.—Darker coloured on the average, with the abdominal spot more defined and more orange than yellow. Found along the southern border of the range of the main body, from middle or savannah Cameroon to Uganda.

(3) *M. g. goertæ*.—Easily distinguished by the great extent of diffused pale yellow wash on the whole underside.

*Distribution*.—To the north of the western part of the main body of the species, from Senegal to the Upper Niger at Mopti. Swainson's *poicephalus* is a synonym.

(4) *M. g. koenigi*.—General colour pale, and especially the grey parts; the dark barring distinct, and extending not only over the wings, but more or less over the back also.

*Distribution*.—To the north of the main body of the species, in the border of the Desert, from Timbuktu through Air and Lake Chad to the Nile valley below Khartum. Though most of Lynes's Darfur specimens belong to *M. g. agmen*, one from Jebel Meidob plainly is *M. g. koenigi*.

Mr. G. L. BATES also sent the following note:—

Mr. James L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has called my attention to the fact that the name *Charadrius marginatus russatus* (Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1932, p. 10) is preoccupied by *Charadrius russatus* Jerdon (Madras Journ. of Lit. & Sci. xii.